



Indiana State Conference of the NAACP • P.O. Box 64798 • Gary, IN 46401
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June 28, 2010

NAACP Message to Indiana School Superintendents:

The Indiana State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), State Education Committee cordially invites you to attend our Annual Education Summit, being held this year at Indianapolis Ivy Tech Community College, Main Building, 50 West Fall Creek Pkwy, 46208. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with a \$20 cost (to include lunch) for adults and \$10 cost for students. The Summit is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Please view the attached flyer.)

Our focus this year concerns us all, “Closing the Achievement Gap”. We know that the gap sets up eventual inequities that impact the quality of life for the category of students that continually fall at the bottom. As schools have made that their goal, the NAACP applauds all of the school corporations that have recently experienced gains in student test scores. It is to be noted that these gains, in many instances, go across all of the various subgroups. With that in mind, it is also noted that, in many instances, there still remains an achievement gap. We recognize that Indiana school corporations do a tremendous job pulling resources together to ensure that all students learn and exceed the expected standards. However, as our Superintendent of Education, Dr. Tony Bennett, mentioned in his June 16th address, the achievement gap is still of great concern.

Our Summit offers an opportunity to examine a couple of important factors that need to be more thoroughly examined for changing the way we currently do business. We will examine how we can better support the efforts of the state to recruit more teachers of color. We will listen to schools of education discuss what they do to ensure that all new teachers possess the skills to be culturally competent in engaging all students to learn at the expected levels. Our Indiana legislators who have been responsible for key education laws will address the body. A panel will present information about Indiana’s STEM initiative. Concluding the Summit will be input from university students sharing their insights into what changes need to be made to ensure higher high school and college graduation rates for students of color.

The Summit is interactive. You will be able to share your concerns and propose solutions. You can question the panelist and evaluate their responses. Superintendents, teachers, administrators, parents, and students are all invited to attend. Together we can stand in the gap until it is closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney Barbara Bolling, Indiana State NAACP President

Marlena Johnson-Hill, Indiana NAACP State Education Conference Chairperson

Carole Craig, Indiana NAACP State Education Conference Co-Chairperson